

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: 0189-19

SPONSOR: Mark Freeland

TITLE: An Action Relating To The Resources And Development Committee And The NAABIK'IYATI' Committee; Authorizing And Requiring Navajo Nation Leadership To Meet With The New Mexico Congressional Delegation Sponsors Of The "Chaco Cultural Heritage Area Protection Act Of 2019", (Federal Legislations S-1079 And HR-2181) To Express Navajo Nation Concerns With The Legislation And To Request The Energy And Natural Resources Committee Of The United States Senate To Hold Hearings In The Target Area To Receive Testimony From All Affected Navajo Allottees Impacted By The Chaco Cultural Heritage Protection Act Of 2019; Such Actions To Take Place Before The Navajo Nation Adopts An Official Position Regarding The "Chaco Cultural Heritage Area And Protection Act Of 2019

Date posted: July 3, 2019 at 7:30 PM

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LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0189-19

DATE: July 2, 2019

AN ACTION RELATING TO THE RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AND THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTÍ COMMITTEE; AUTHORIZING AND REQUIRING NAVAJO NATION LEADERSHIP TO MEET WITH THE NEW MEXICO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION SPONSORS OF THE "CHACO CULTURAL HERITAGE AREA PROTECTION ACT OF 2019", (FEDERAL LEGISLATIONS S-1079 AND HR-2181) TO EXPRESS NAVAJO NATION CONCERNS WITH THE LEGISLATION AND TO REQUEST THE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE TO HOLD HEARINGS IN THE TARGET AREA TO RECEIVE TESTIMONY FROM ALL AFFECTED NAVAJO ALLOTTEES IMPACTED BY THE CHACO CULTURAL HERITAGE PROTECTION ACT OF 2019; SUCH ACTIONS TO TAKE PLACE BEFORE THE NAVAJO NATION ADOPTS AN OFFICIAL POSITION REGARDING THE "CHACO CULTURAL HERITAGE AREA AND PROTECTION ACT OF 2019

PURPOSE: Authorizing and requiring Navajo Nation leadership to meet with the New Mexico Congressional delegation regarding the Chaco Cultural Heritage Area Protection Act of 2019 and to request in addition that the Energy and Natural Resources Committee of the United States Senate hold hearings in the affected areas of Navajo Nation.

This written summary does not address recommended amendments as may be provided by the standing committees. The Office of Legislative Counsel requests each Council Delegate review the proposed resolution in detail.

5-DAY BILL HOLD PERIOD: None
Website Posting Time/Date: _____
Posting End Date: 7/8/19
Eligible for Action: 7/9/19

Resources & Development Committee
Thence
Naabik'iyáti' Committee

PROPOSED NAVAJO NATION COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

24th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL – First Year, 2019

Thomas Walker, Jr.
INTRODUCED BY

William [unclear]
[Signature]
(Prime Sponsor)

Thomas W. Dancy
Ke-Allen [unclear] JR

TRACKING NO. 0189-19

AN ACTION RELATING TO THE RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
AND THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTÍ COMMITTEE;

AUTHORIZING AND REQUIRING NAVAJO NATION LEADERSHIP TO MEET
WITH THE NEW MEXICO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION SPONSORS OF THE
“CHACO CULTURAL HERITAGE AREA PROTECTION ACT OF 2019”, (FEDERAL
LEGISLATIONS S-1079 AND HR-2181) TO EXPRESS NAVAJO NATION CONCERNS
WITH THE LEGISLATION AND TO REQUEST THE ENERGY AND NATURAL
RESOURCES COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE TO HOLD
HEARINGS IN THE TARGET AREA TO RECEIVE TESTIMONY FROM ALL
AFFECTED NAVAJO ALLOTTEES IMPACTED BY THE CHACO CULTURAL
HERITAGE PROTECTION ACT OF 2019; SUCH ACTIONS TO TAKE PLACE
BEFORE THE NAVAJO NATION ADOPTS AN OFFICIAL POSITION REGARDING
THE “CHACO CULTURAL HERITAGE AREA AND PROTECTION ACT OF 2019

WHEREAS:

- A. The Resources and Development Committee of the Navajo Nation Council exercises oversight authority over water, land, grazing, environment, economic and community development. 2 N.N.C. §500 (C).

- 1 B. The Naabik`iyáti Committee of the Navajo Nation Council is the standing committee
2 empowered to coordinate and pronounce the official position of the Navajo Nation
3 before non-Navajo government federal, state or other entities. 2 N.N.C. § 700 (A).
- 4 C. This legislation is a necessary response to current developments involving actions of
5 the New Mexico Congressional Delegation and the "Chaco Cultural Heritage Area
6 Protection Act of 2019"(Act); Legislation S. 1079 and H.R. 2181. See Exhibit A.
- 7 D. These bills, S.1079 and its companion bill H.R. 2181, both sharing the common title
8 "Chaco Cultural Heritage Area Protection Act of 2019", have been sponsored by the
9 New Mexico Congressional delegation.
- 10 E. The "Chaco Cultural Heritage Area Protection Act of 2019" in an effort to protect the
11 archeological, sacred and historic resources located throughout the Greater Chaco
12 region severely restricts, prohibits in effect, any extraction operations from occurring
13 on lands within the Act's expansive impact area. See Exhibit A.
- 14 F. The Act will have a major and severe impact on the lands rightly owned by the
15 numerous Navajo Nation allottees in that affected area. See Exhibit B.
- 16 G. The Navajo Nation finds it is in the best interest of the Diné that the Navajo Nation,
17 through its leadership, including the Speaker of the Navajo Nation or his designee,
18 the President of the Navajo Nation or his designee and other selected members of
19 leadership as they may choose to meet with and communicate to the New Mexico
20 Congressional delegation, the concerns of the Navajo Nation regarding "Chaco
21 Cultural Heritage Area Protection Act of 2019".
- 22 H. The Navajo Nation finds it is in the best interest of the Diné that the Navajo Nation
23 leadership formally request and make best efforts to ensure that the Energy and
24 Natural Resources Committee of the United States Senate hold on-site hearings on the
25 impact of the "Chaco Cultural Heritage Protection Act of 2019" on the Navajo
26 Nation.

27
28 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

- 29 A. The Navajo Nation hereby requires and so authorizes the Navajo Nation leadership,
30 including the Speaker of the Navajo Nation or his designee, and the President of the

1 Navajo Nation or his designee and other selected members of leadership as they may
2 choose, to meet with and communicate to the New Mexico Congressional delegation,
3 the concerns of the Navajo Nation regarding "Chaco Cultural Heritage Area
4 Protection Act of 2019".

5 B. The Navajo Nation hereby directs the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council or his
6 designee and the President of the Navajo Nation or his designee to formally request
7 and make their best efforts to ensure, that the Energy and Natural Resources
8 Committee of the United States Senate hold on-site hearings on the impact of the
9 "Chaco Cultural Heritage Protection Act of 2019" on the Navajo Nation.

10 C. It is the intent of this legislation that no official position of the Navajo Nation
11 regarding the "Chaco Cultural Heritage Protection Act of 2019" be adopted until the
12 meetings and hearings directed by this legislation have occurred.
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